THE NINTH DAY.

26th February 1919.

The Assembly met at 12-10 P. M. on Wednesday, the 26th February 1919.

136. Popular needs.

Mr. S. Adam Sait (Member, Nominated) made the following representations :—

The Putherikandom fields were situated in a most congested area close to the Palace and the main thoroughfares of the town and formed a store-house of rubbish and breeding ground of mosquitoes and disease-germs. He suggested that they might be filled up in the interests of public health and converted into a park or pasture ground.

He then requested that the following lanes might be converted into village roads and said that such conversion would materially reduce the traffic on the main roads and considerably improve the sanitation of the localities :—

(*a*) The Muripalam lane which runs from the Chalai main road to the Kottuval street.

(*b*) The lane from the Attakulangara main road to the Singarathope main road.

(*c*) The Sreevaraham lane.

(*d*) The Chettikulangara lane near the Zillah Court.

(*e*) The Karalee lane which starts from the Kuthiravattom road.

The conversion of the above lanes had been recommended by the Town Improvement Committee, Trivandrum, and would not cost much, as they required only gravelling.

Owing to the scarcity and impurity of water in the town, diseases like malaria, elephantiasis, typhoid, &c., were on the increase. It was, therefore, high time that pipe water was introduced.

The situation of the Railway Station at Chakay caused great inconvenience to the people. It was desirable to have the station at a more central part of the town. The extension of the line to the pier would not remove the inconvenience, or difficulties of the merchants and the people. He also suggested the opening of an approach road to the Railway Station straight from the first *Mandapom* on the road from the landing place to the beach.

The old arrangement by which the contents of each issue of the Government Gazette were printed in detail on the first page should be revived for the sake of easy reference.

Lunatics and lepers were wandering about the town freely. The law relating to them needed enforcement and urgent steps had to be taken to house them in their respective asylums.

Government should take the initiative to improve the condition of commerce, industry and agriculture.

The rules relating to the sending of judgment-debtors to civil jails required modification, at least in respect of decrees amounting to Rs. 50 and less. At present a large sum by way of jail *batta* and bedding charges, out of all proportion to the decree amount, had to be deposited by decree-holders in small cause suits, so much so, that coercive steps against judgment-debtors were very often not taken.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Although a good deal of money was being spent on hospitals and dispensaries, the majority of the poor for whom the institutions were intended were deriving little benefit out of them. More consideration should be shown to them by the staff of the Medical Department.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

137. Suggestions for the improvement of the Public Service.

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) asked permission to say one word regarding the remarks of the two Members on official corruption, the previous evening. He dissociated himself from those observations and expressed the country's obligations to the Dewan for rightly explaining the real position of officials and for maintaining the honor of the people from among whom officers below Rs. 100 were recruited.

Dewan.—Quite so. These officers have come from among the people. I know the people of Travancore full well and my opinion is that, viewed from any stand point, they will not be found to be inferior to the people of any other country. If the officers below Rs. 100, as a class, are bad, then it would mean that the people from whom they come are also bad. There is absolutely no foundation for the opinion that the people are bad nor for the allegation that the officers below Rs. 100 are a corrupt lot. I have no doubt that all the people of Travancore will agree in this view.

The Member then requested that, if any officer was proved to have gone astray in any way, he should be severely dealt with.

It was a matter of regret to the Members that Government did not bestow sufficient attention to the several representations made on the general administration of the State or to the working of the Departments, nor were the Members informed of the action taken, if any, on their representations.

The Government in their anxiety to secure efficiency had during the period 1080-89 increased salaries to 110 per cent, the cost of establishments to 135 per cent, and the amount of allowances and supplies and services to 200 per cent. The creation of unnecessary appointments had become common. Though Travancore was only as big as a British Indian District, the number of officers in it was larger. The Member urged that there should be equitable distribution of emoluments. He then went on to explain the disparity in the salaries of Heads of Departments and observed that there was no sense of proportion nor were they regulated by the usual standards of work and responsibility. The differential treatment accorded to the officers was against all principles. The Member contended that there was scope for substantial improvement in that matter. The same was the case in regard to clerical establishments in the Huzur Office and the High Court. The next point urged was the need for equitable rules for the grant of allowances to officers. The articles of the Travancore Service Regulations were being violated and exceptions were very common. Promotions went by fortuitous circumstances because of want of regular gradation. On the same footing was the question of granting honoraria to officers. He could not understand why paid officers should be given honoraria for legitimate work done by them. Closely connected with the above matters was the grant of extension of service to officers. The age-limit provision should be strictly enforced. If necessary, the age-limit might be raised to 60 years, but a rule, when laid down, should always be observed. The Member then complained about the immense power for evil vested in officers by the laws and regulations on the statute book and observed that some of them were an invasion of the people's rights. He then complained about the poor touring work of the District Officers and Heads of Departments in spite of repeated official instructions from Government and pleaded, *inter alia*, for the institution of departmental examinations for promotion.

Much of the so-called official corruption at present took the form of class feeling which, if not arrested immediately, would grow to uncontrollable limits. He was aware that a good deal of what was dealt with by the Member was being discussed in the Vernacular newspapers of the country. The Government should, whenever

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly